

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6205

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS SEPARATE FROM CHANCERIES

1. PARAGRAPH NINE OF THE AGREED MINUTE OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1974, WHICH ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR, STATES IN PART THAT BOTH COUNTRIES "AGREE THAT, FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT NO LATER THAN A YEAR FROM THIS DATE, THEY WILL ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE OPENING OF ESTABLISHMENTS SEPARATE FROM THE RESPECTIVE CHANCERIES IN CITIES TO BE AGREED UPON."

2. THE COMMITMENT TO "ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS" IS CLEAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORD "ESTABLISHMENTS" IS INTENDED TO COVER NOT ONLY CONSTITUENT CONSULAR POSTS, BUT COMMERCIAL/CULTURAL CENTERS AS WELL.

3. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO US INTEREST TO BE SERVED AT PRESENT BY AN EXPANSION OF THE EAST GERMAN PRESENCE IN THE US, OR OUR OWN IN THE GDR.

4. THE GDR, ON ITS PART, MAY BE INTERESTED IN OPENING CONSULATES (IN CHICAGO OR SAN FRANCISCO, FOR EXAMPLE)
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SOON.

5. WE NOTE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND ARE THE ONLY ACCREDITED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE REPRESENTED OUTSIDE OF BERLIN. BOTH HAVE CONSULATED GENERAL IN LEIPZIG AND ROSTOCK, AND THE SOVIET UNION, ADDITIONALLY, HAS A CONSULATE GENERAL IN KARL-MARX-STADT.

6. IN ORDER TO MEET OUR COMMITMENT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING STEPS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WASHINGTON SHARES OUR VIEW THAT THIS IS NO TIME FOR SERIOUS MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION:

A- THE AMBASSY SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (DCM TO GEYER) IN ORDER TO REFER TO THIS PREVISION OF THE AGREED MINUTE AND TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GDR FOR ITS VIEWS. THE DCM WOULD STATE THAT THE USG HAS NO PRESENT INTEREST IN OPENING AN ESTABLISHMENT IN THE GDR SEPARATE FROM THE EMBASSY.

B- IF THE GDR OFFERS TO DELAY THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE US RESPONSE BECOMES RELATIVELY SIMPLE. (WE MIGHT PROPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE MATTER BE REVIEWED IN TWELVE MONTHS.)

C- IF THE GDR BELIEVES THAT THE COMMITMENT TO "ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS" ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE HONORED, AND THAT PREPARATIONS FOR TALKS SHOULD BE MADE, THE DCM'S REPLY WOULD BE TO STATE THAT THE GDR'S VIEWS WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND A US REPLY WILL BE FORTH-COMING.

7. IF THE GDR WANTS NEGOTIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE MIGHT BE TO AGREE, AND TO PROPOSE THAT TALKS BEGIN IN WASHINGTON AT A CERTAIN DATE, INDICATING ALSO WHO THE US NEGOTIATOR(S) WILL BE. PRESUMABLY THE MODALITIES FOR TALKS COULD BE WORKED OUT TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES. IN ANY EVENT, THE GDR WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN CLEAR NOTICE THAT THERE IS NO PRESENT USG INTEREST IN A NEW ESTABLISHMENT IN THE GDR.
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